

CHAS-335

GRAY FAMILY CEMETERY

19th century

Private

In addition to its association with Mansion Hall, (CH-207), the Gray Family Cemetery is significant as one of the larger private cemeteries in the county. Although numerous family cemeteries can be found throughout the county a majority of them have had their stones broken and scattered and usually only include the graves of one or two generations of a family. The Gray Family Cemetery, spanning four generations, is one of the few that survives intact, despite its years of neglect. It is of further interest in illustrating the rise in economic situation the family experienced during the early and mid-nineteenth century, an occurrence also reflected in the alterations of the house carried out in about this same period.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-335

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY (PCI #090355234)

1 NAME

HISTORIC

GRAY FAMILY CEMETERY

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mansion Hall, west side of Md. Rte. 425 (Ironsides Riverside Rd.)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF Ironsides 1st

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Glatfelter Pulpwood Co.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 868

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Fredericksburg

VICINITY OF

Virginia

22401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 36

Folio #: 424

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

STATE

La Plata

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gray Family Cemetery is situated on a small knoll on the south side of the old road to Mansion Hall, (CH-207), about 300 yards south of the site of the house and about one-half mile west of the junction of the road (now a logging road) and Md. Rte. 425.

Considering that the cemetery has been abandoned for some time, it survives in a rather remarkable state of preservation, with all of the stones still standing and, for the most part, clearly legible. The Mansion Hall property, part of a larger tract of land owned by the Glatfelter Pulpwood Co. of Fredericksburg, Virginia, has been greatly disfigured as a result of extensive logging in the 1940's. Although the area immediately north, east and south of the cemetery is a bleak testament to the ravages incurred by this industry, several large trees within and immediately west of the cemetery were fortunately preserved.

Within the area of the cemetery are eleven marked graves. There are also several other graves marked by fieldstones, as well as others whose existence is suggested by oblong sinks in the ground

Since Mansion Hall was probably built at least a century before the earliest grave, it is reasonable to assume that several of the unmarked graves might be of eighteenth century date. Those of "favorite" servants, a practice which did occur, although the general practice was to bury field and domestic slaves in a separate area. It is possible that exploratory probing in the immediate area will reveal additional markers that had fallen and are now covered over.

The standing inscribed stones include the following:

1. Sacred to the memory of James F. Gray, who departed this life Sept. 5, 1862 in the 40th year of his age. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."
2. Elizabeth, wife of Robert Gray, was born the 1st of June, 1796 and departed this life the 6th of Nov., 1824.
3. _____ Capt. John F. Gray, born Nov. 24th, 1771 and departed this life June 26th, 1830.
4. Here lies the body of Captain Alexander Gray, who was born the 30th of May, 1788 and departed this life the 25th of Jan'y, 1839.

(continued on attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to its association with Mansion Hall, (CH-207), the Gray Family Cemetery is significant as one of the larger private cemeteries in the county. Although numerous family cemeteries can be found throughout the county a majority of them have had their stones broken and scattered and usually only include the graves of one or two generations of a family. The Gray Family Cemetery, spanning four generations, is one of the few that survives intact, despite its years of neglect. It is of further interest in illustrating the rise in economic situation the family experienced during the early and mid-nineteenth century, an occurrence also reflected in the alterations of the house carried out in about this same period.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Gray Family Cemetery is located on a large tract of unspecified acreage identified as parcel 6, Map 52 of the Charles County Tax Map (revised Jan. 1976.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation of #7 (Description)--GRAY FAMILY CEMETERY
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5. In memory of Elizabeth, wife of Captain Alexander Gray, born 13th July, 1793, died 6th August, 1857. "I know that my redeemer liveth."
6. Julius Miller, Born July 29, 1855. Died Oct. 5, 1855.
7. Consecrated to the memory of Benedictore Gray, who departed this life March 13, 1866 in the 48th year of her age. "Sustained by the grace of God; In her pilgrimage. The end of her strife with death, Is everlasting life. The righteous hath hope in his Death. Glory be to God."
8. Sacred to the memory of Mary Frances, wife of Edward L. Smoot and daughter of Capt. Robert Gray. Born August 5th, 1842. Died Sept. 11th, 1859.
9. In memory of Joseph C. Gray, Born May 18, 1820, Died June 1, 1880. "Ye sinners seek the grace of God, whose wrath ye cannot bear. Fly to the shelter of his _____, and find salvation there."
10. In memory of Elizabeth, wife of Joseph C. Gray. Born Jan. 28, 1821. Died March 27, 1863.
11. Robert Gray was born the 8th of December, 1822 and departed this life the 26th of December, 1851.



CHAS-335

GRAY FAMILY CEMETERY; View
From N. J.R.Rivoire, 1978